Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A playlist generator apparatus comprising:

a first selector device <u>connected all the time with at least one database source of</u> <u>material of an Internet-based environment, wherein the first selector device</u> ~~that~~ accesses and searches <u>the</u> at least one database source of material and provides therefrom a first subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material at a highest hierarchical level, based on a first set of parameters corresponding to a first set of user preferences, further wherein the first selector device accesses and searches ~~available~~ <u>the</u> at least one database ~~sources~~ <u>source</u> of material on a weekly basis to maintain the first subset of identifications of items up to date, <u>the</u> <u>first subset of identifications of items being stored in a database of the playlist</u> <u>generator,</u> and

a second selector device operatively coupled <u>subsequent</u> to the first selector device <u>via the database of the playlist generator</u>, wherein the second selector device searches the first subset of identifications <u>stored in the database of the playlist</u> <u>generator</u> at a lower hierarchical level based on a second set of parameters corresponding to a second set of user preferences, and provides ~~therefrom~~ <u>at an output</u> <u>of the second selector device</u> a second subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material, wherein the second subset corresponds to a playlist that is used by a rendering device for a subsequent rendering of the items identified in the second subset.

2. (previously presented) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to time-independent user preferences, and

Appl. No. 10/597,277
Response to Final Action of March 12, 2010

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
PATENT
Docket No.: US040043US2
Customer No. 24737

the second set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences at a particular time.

3. (previously presented) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the first set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to event-independent user preferences, and

the second set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences based upon an occurrence of an event.

4. (previously presented) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the first set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to general user preferences, wherein the general user preferences include constant preferences, and

the second set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to specific user preferences, wherein the specific user preferences include dynamic time-dependent or event-dependent entertainment preferences.

5. (previously presented) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the database source of material includes one or more Internet web-sites.

6. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, further including

wherein the database of the playlist generator includes non-volatile memory that stores the first subset of identifications, and wherein

the second selector device further searches the first subset of identifications at the lower hierarchial level, based on a third set of parameters corresponding to a third set of user preferences, and provides therefrom at an output of the second selector device a third subset of identifications of items within the database source of material, wherein the third subset corresponds to another playlist that is used by a rendering device for a subsequent rendering of the items identified in the third subset.

7. (previously presented) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the first set of parameters includes one or more parameters for searching the database source of material based on a frequency of access of the items within the database source of material, and

the first selector device is further configured to determine a measure of requests for each item within the database source of material by a plurality of users, and to provide therefrom the first subset of identifications of items, based on the measure of requests for each item.

8. (previously presented) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 7, wherein

the first selector device is further configured to provide the first subset of identifiers based on a set of parameters corresponding to general user preferences, and wherein the second set of parameters corresponds to specific user preferences.

9. (previously presented) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 7, wherein

the first selector device is further configured to provide the first subset of identifiers based on a set of parameters corresponding to general user preferences, and

the second set of parameters corresponding to user preferences based upon a particular event.

10. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 7, further including

wherein the database of the playlist generator includes non-volatile memory that stores the first subset of identifications, and wherein

the second selector device further searches the first subset of identifications at the lower hierarchial level, based on a third set of parameters corresponding to a third set of user preferences, and provides therefrom at an output of the second selector device a third subset of identifications of items within the database source of material, wherein the third subset corresponds to another playlist that is used by a rendering device for a subsequent rendering of the items identified in the third subset.

11. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a playlist generator apparatus that provides a set of identifications of select items within at least one database source of material of an Internet-based environment, and

a rendering device, operably coupled to the playlist generator apparatus, wherein the rendering device renders the select items in response to the set of identifications of the select items;

wherein

the playlist generator apparatus includes:

a first selector device connected all the time with the at least one database source of material of the Internet-based environment, wherein the first selector device that accesses and searches the at least one database source of material and provides therefrom a first subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material at a highest hierarchial level, based on a first set of parameters corresponding to a first set of user preferences, further wherein the first selector device accesses and searches available the at least one database sources source of material on a weekly basis to maintain the first subset of identifications of items up to date, the first subset of identifications of items being stored in a database of the playlist generator, and

a second selector device operatively coupled subsequent to the first selector device via the database of the playlist generator, wherein the second selector device searches the first subset of identifications stored in the database of the playlist generator at a lower hierarchial level based on a second set of parameters corresponding to a second set of user preferences, and provides therefrom at an output of the second selector device the set of identifications of the select items.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein

the first set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to time-independent user preferences, and

the second set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to user preferences at a particular time.

13. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein

the database source of material includes one or more Internet web-sites.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, further including

wherein the database of the playlist generator includes non-volatile memory that is configured to store the first subset of identifications, and wherein the second selector device is operatively coupled to the non-volatile memory to facilitate generation of multiple sets of identifications of select items at the lower hierarchical level based on the first subset of identifications at the first hierarchial level.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein

the first set of parameters includes one or more parameters for searching the database source of material based on a frequency of access of the items within the database source of material, and

the first selector device is further configured to determine a measure of requests for each item within the database source of material by a plurality of users, and to provide therefrom the first subset of identifications of items, based on the measure of requests for each item.

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein

the first selector is further configured to provide the first subset of identifiers based on a set of parameters corresponding to general user preferences, and

wherein the second set of parameters corresponds to a set of specific user preferences.

17. (currently amended) A method of generating a playlist in an entertainment system, comprising:

accessing and searching via a first selector device, connected all the time with at least one database source of material of an Internet-based environment, the at least one database source of material at a highest hierarchical level based on a first set of parameters corresponding to a first set of user preferences to provide thereby a first subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material, wherein accessing and searching further include accessing and searching available the at least one database sources source of material on a weekly basis to maintain the first subset of identifications of items up to date, the first subset of identifications being stored in a database of the entertainment system, and

generating the playlist from the first subset of identifications of items stored in the database of the entertainment system, wherein generating includes searching via a second selector device, coupled subsequent to the first selector device via the database of the entertainment system, the first subset of identifications at a subsequent hierarchical level based on a second set of parameters corresponding to a second set of user preferences, and to provide therefrom at an output of the second selector device a second subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material, wherein the second subset corresponds to the playlist that is used by a rendering device for a subsequent rendering of the items identified in the second subset.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein

the first set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to substantially time-invariant user preferences, and

the second set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to user preferences at a particular time.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein

the first set of parameters includes one or more parameters for searching the database source of material based on accesses to the items within the database source of material, and

searching the database source of material further includes

determining a frequency of access of each of a plurality of items within the database source of material, and

selecting the identifications of items for inclusion in the first subset of identifications based at least in part on the frequency of access of each of the plurality of items.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein

selecting the identifications of items for inclusion in the first subset is also based on parameters corresponding to substantially time-invariant user preferences, and

the second set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to user preferences at a particular time.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including

~~storing the first subset of identifications, and~~

generating another playlist from the stored first subset of identifications of items, based on a further set of parameters.